

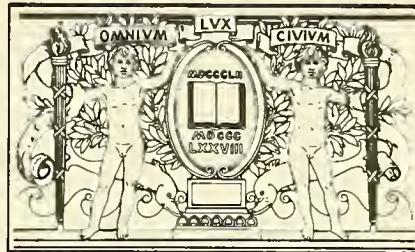
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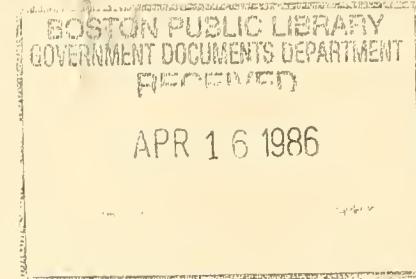












BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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July 1983

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## BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY

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## BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY

### INTRODUCTION

In January of 1982, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a planning grant from the federal Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program of the National Park Service. The grant was awarded to aid the city agency in planning in light of Proposition 2 1/2 and revising the five-year Recovery Action Program required by UPARR to reflect the impact of the new fiscal austerity.

The Parks and Recreation Department had undergone crippling cutbacks in each of its three divisions, and recreation programming would have virtually come to a halt had it not been for an important private philanthropic sector initiative to support the summer recreation programs. The upheaval in the Department was so severe that it led us to question what our role should be in the recreation service delivery system of the future.

We found ourselves charged with the responsibility of maintaining a physical plant which had expanded greatly during an era of generous public resources. At the same time we were charged with safeguarding public access to open space and recreational opportunity, and felt we could not abandon that responsibility. Was there still public support for these goals, or should we interpret the broad tax reform to mean that taxpayers were less willing to insure public access? Did the voters only intend to cut out the waste in government, and is there support to restore some services once voters are

convinced the resources would be managed more effectively? Is the general public relatively satisfied with the current recreation offerings in their neighborhoods?

There were also a number of management issues to confront. Should there be a different mix of public and private support in the recreation service delivery system? Should we look to supporting more community non-profits which can leverage more of a local investment in programs and neighborhood facilities? Should users continue to be subsidized 100% for any service, or should certain segments of the population be asked to supplement program activities with fees? Should we follow the precedents set by some other cities in supplementing the City's tax-based support for recreation with income from concessions and vending agreements?

In order to clarify public sentiment on some of these issues, the decision was made to utilize some of the federal planning funds to conduct a residents' opinions survey. We hope our findings will prove useful to other recreation providers and supporters in Boston.

In designing the survey questionnaire, we attempted to elicit opinions which could provide us some insight as we attempt the following:

1. To assess the relative level of public satisfaction with opportunities for recreation in the twenty-one neighborhoods of Boston, and the perceived need for recreation services improvements.
2. To identify any segments of the population which are particularly dissatisfied with currently available recreation offerings.
3. To identify specific types of recreation activities for

which people would like more opportunities.

4. To determine the acceptability of fee programs and membership fees to the general public as a way of making recreation services available.

5. To measure public attitudes towards what the City's priorities should be in the area of parks and recreation services.

The findings of the phone survey have been divided into

I. Satisfaction with Current Recreation Opportunities

II. Programs Needs

III. Financing Recreation

IV. Attitudes on City Priorities

## SURVEY SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGY

The telephone interviews were conducted by the City of Boston Survey Research Office between October 18th and November 8th, 1982. Calls were made from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. on two consecutive Saturdays (October 30th - November 6, 1982). The survey sample was compiled by random selection from the 1981 City of Boston Resident Listing. The total sample of 2047 completed interviews was stratified by neighborhood, allowing for accurate analysis at both the city-wide and neighborhood levels. At a 95% confidence level, survey results differ by no more than three percentage points in either direction from the results which would have been obtained had all residents of each Boston neighborhood been interviewed.

Low cost and rapid completion with relatively high response rates are the two major advantages of telephone surveying. In addition, the telephone interview approach allowed us to monitor interviews and closely scrutinize the quality and precision of sample selection. It also allowed us to quickly adjust to interview situations in which the respondent's first language is not English. The Survey Research Office maintains an interviewing support staff of Chinese and Spanish speaking interviewers. Importantly, there is little difference in the quality of responses between telephone and personal interviewing; however, there are several potential minor biases inherent in telephone surveying which can affect a survey's accuracy.

First, only 90% to 95% of adult Bostonians can be reached by telephone. A small percentage of Boston residents do not have telephone service. These residents tend to include at disproportionate levels: retired persons, minority families, single parent (usually female-headed) families, and highly

transient families or individuals. Second, households with unlisted phone numbers cannot be included in the sample unless a random digit dialing procedure is used to select respondents. Third, time of calling can also affect the representativeness of the sample. For public affairs studies, phone calls must be spread over time periods which will account for various population subgroups (i.e., night-time versus day-time workers, housewives, etc.).

Our survey sample is a fairly good representation of the City's ethnic composition. Exhibit S-1 compares the survey demographics with the census demographics. Our survey involved a higher percentage of middle income households than the census population and a lower percentage of low income households. The major variance from the census population was in the household type groups. Whereas only 26% of Boston households have children, in our survey sample 47% of the households reached had children as members. One possible explanation for this variance is that in households with children the likelihood might be greater that someone would be home to answer the phone. The age group breakdowns also reflect the higher percentage of children.

In the appendix there is also a racial breakdown by neighborhood taken from a Mayor's Office of Survey Research analysis of census figures. Income and household type data was not available by this particular neighborhood breakdown.

CITY -WIDE

SURVEY AND CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

	<u>Survey%</u>	<u>Census%</u>
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	41%	47%
Female	59%	53%
<u>Income</u>		
Low income (under \$10,000)	28%	40%
Middle income (\$10,000-\$25,000)	48%	40%
High income (over \$25,000)	19%	19%
<u>Race</u>		
Black	20%	22%
White	75%	70%
Hispanic	2%	6%
Oriental	1%	3%
Other	1%	
<u>Household Type</u>		
Households with children	47%	26%
Single parent households	11%	10%
Households without children	53%	74%
<u>Age Group Representation in Household</u>		
under six years	12%	6%
6 to 12 years	14%	8%*
12 to 21 years	27%	17%*
over 65 years	19%	13%

\*Census figures are for the groups of ages 6 to 13 years and 13 to 21 years.

## I. SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In the survey, we asked three questions on broad aspects of recreation offerings, and then asked about satisfaction with opportunities for women and for any age group represented in the household.

The intention with our questions on satisfaction was not to evaluate recreation services per se, but to develop some insight as to what recreation wants and needs of the general public are not being satisfied. For this reason, no attempt was made to differentiate between public and private services - instead our questions on satisfaction were framed in terms of how people feel about what opportunities are available to them now in their neighborhoods. Do people feel there are enough recreational opportunities?... Are they satisfied with the quality of the offerings?... with the condition of the facilities? etc...

It should be stressed that care should be taken in interpreting the results of the survey. There has been considerable research on whether citizens' impressions of service quality and conditions are valid tools for assessing neighborhood needs and the effectiveness of service allocations. Rosentraub and Thompson, in a 1981 study\*, discuss several issues that have been debated by researchers concerning the use of citizen surveys on service delivery as analytical tools. Some key variables that should be taken into consideration when interpreting the results of such surveys include:

1. The level of potential for discretionary actions by service deliverers may effect the degree of variability in a survey. For instance, police services have a high potential for discretionary actions by police, whereas bus services leave

\*The Use of Surveys of Satisfaction For Evaluations, Mark S. Rosentraub, The University of Texas at Arlington, and Lyke Thompson, Western Michigan. University Policy Studies Journal Vol. 9, No 7 Summer 1981.

little discretionary authority to bus operators since bus routes are set at the production level and are highly routinized. Although there is some public contact for the operators there is little opportunity for them to change service decisions.

Parks and recreation services were considered by Rosentraub and Thompson to have medium potential for discretion since employees frequently have discretion over maintenance and production of special programs although the level of physical resources are decided at the production level. Rosentraub and Thompson found in their Dallas survey more variability in the high discretion services than in the low discretion services they tested. Since the parks and recreation service delivery system is relatively decentralized in Boston, with numerous providing agencies involved; and since within the agencies employees usually have some discretionary authority, we might expect to see some variability in our results.

2. The respondents' general dispositions towards government (and perhaps towards any institution vested with the authority to allocate resources for neighborhood services) may influence their impressions of particular services. Even though the scope of our questions on satisfaction with local recreation opportunities (public, private, or non-profit) was broader than just public recreation services, the phone interviewers did identify themselves as calling from the City of Boston Survey Research Office. Thus there is a reasonable possibility that some responses were influenced by the respondents' general attitudes toward government, and our results should be examined with this in mind.

3. If asked, non-users of a service may offer an opinion. On the other hand, removing users could eliminate people who

don't use services because they are unsatisfactory. Although our survey instrument did not include a question designed specifically to differentiate service users from non-users, we did use a surrogate measure in an attempt to ascertain whether users and non-users differ in levels of satisfaction. We identified those people who responded to questions 1a or 2a (During the warm/cold weather, what recreational activities in the city do members of your household do most often in their free time? Where?) with any type of recreation facility (park, beach, gym, tennis court, etc.) as users.

Other responses, or lack of responses, were interpreted as indicators of infrequent users. Our comparison revealed no significant difference between the satisfaction levels of our "users" and "infrequent users". This result could be explained as either the inadequacy of our surrogate measure or as a reflection that frequency of use is not a good indicator of satisfaction levels. Our attempt to sort out non-users was inconclusive; however Rosentraub and Thompson, using a more direct and sophisticated measure, found that varying levels of use of the same service had both positive and negative relationships with satisfaction.

### Results

In our interviews citizens were asked if they were satisfied with three aspects of recreation opportunities - the quantity, quality, and physical condition of facilities. There were no significant differences among the frequencies of satisfaction and dissatisfaction for the three different aspects on a citywide basis. A regression analysis indicated that satisfaction with the three aspects was fairly well correlated. Since people who were satisfied with one aspect tended to be satisfied with the other two aspects, we decided to use the question on quantity as a measure of overall satisfaction.

The various demographic subgroupings that were examined included divisions by sex, ages represented in households, household types, race, ethnic background, handicapped, access to a car, length of residence, type of residence (i.e. own or rent), and neighborhood.

Citywide, fifty-one percent of the people who gave their opinions stated they were dissatisfied with the quantity of recreation opportunities in their neighborhoods, while forty-nine percent were satisfied. Fourteen percent of all people contacted responded that they didn't know.

To give some perspective to these figures, a comparison could be made to a survey conducted in May of 1981 by the Center For Survey Research, under contract for the Boston Committee, Inc.\* In their survey, people were asked how satisfied they felt about nine different kinds of neighborhood services. Their citywide results can be seen in Table IA. There doesn't seem to be a meaningful difference between the Boston Committee survey's frequency of satisfaction on parks and recreation facilities and what we found given the difference in survey and sample methods.

At any rate, the Boston Committee survey indicates that even before Proposition 2 1/2, residents were relatively less satisfied with parks and recreation services than with many other neighborhood services. Only police, street maintenance and restaurants received lower ratings.

\* Black and White Perceptions of Quality of Life in Boston. Floyd J. Fowler, Jr. Center For Survey Research, a facility of the University of Massachusetts/Boston and the Joint Center for Urban Studies of M.I.T. and Harvard.

TABLE 1-A

BOSTON COMMITTEE FINDINGS  
SATISFACTION WITH NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS BY RACE\*

Percent who say they are "very satisfied" or  
"generally satisfied" with: \*\*  
(N=839)

---

Way neighborhood residents get along	80%
Access to good shopping areas	77%
Way property is kept up	71%
Kind and quality of nearby stores	67%
Public transportation	65%
Noise level in neighborhood	59%
Parks and recreation facilities	54%
Nearby restaurants, places to go out	53%
Police service in neighborhood	48%
Way streets and sidewalks are maintained	44%

---

\*Black and White Perceptions of Quality of Life in Boston  
Floyd J. Fowler, Jr.

\*\*Percentages were calculated by combining relative black and white satisfaction frequencies as reported by Fowler.

Our survey can also be compared to one conducted by the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, which recently completed a survey that asked residents about their satisfaction with the availability of recreation facilities for both indoor and outdoor activities away from home. The Detroit results differ dramatically from ours. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of the Detroit residents polled responded that they felt there were enough indoor facilities accessible to them, and seventy-three percent (73%) were satisfied with the availability of accessible facilities for outdoor recreational activities. Caution should be taken in interpreting these differences, however. The Detroit survey was not implemented by or for a city agency as was Boston's, and thus the Detroit survey minimized the likelihood that generalized attitudes toward the city administration influenced evaluative responses on specific services. Also, the survey questionnaire was different, in that it was geared towards satisfaction with availability of facilities, whereas our survey measured satisfaction with quantity and quality opportunities for recreation activities (which is a function of facilities, services, and programs). Differences in sample selection and survey administration could also contribute to discrepancies. Finally, there may be demographic and geographic differences between Detroit and Boston that could effect results. Detroit, for instance, has a population with a black majority and their sample was 63% black in contrast to our sample which was 23% black.

In our survey the factors which seemed to differentiate segments of the population showing significantly different levels of satisfaction with recreation were race, the presence of children in the household, income, and distance to a park.

CHART I-B

SATISFACTION WITH QUANTITY OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>
Total Citywide (N=2029)	49 %	51 %
<u>RACE</u>		
Blacks (N=412)	32	68
Whites (N=1,532)	54	46
Other (N=76)	45	55
<u>INCOME</u>		
Low (under \$10,000.) (N=401)	54	46
Middle (\$11,000-25,000.) (N=719)	44	56
High(over \$26,000.) (N=355)	52	48
<u>HOUSEHOLD TYPES</u>		
Households with children (N=845)	40	60
Households without children (N=878)	58	42
<u>HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANY MEMBERS:</u>		
Under 6 years old (N=245)	42	58
6-12 years (N=291)	34	66
12-21 years (N=546)	43	57
Adults under 65 (N=1459)	47	53
Adults over 65 (N=393)	57	43
<u>HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANY MEMBERS:</u>		
Households with handicapped (N=171)	43	57
Households W/O handicapped (N=1570)	49	51
<u>OTHER</u>		
Access to car (N=1260)	48	52
No access to car (N=472)	52	48
Rent home (N=902)	51	49
Own Home (N=810)	47	53
Male (N=722)	50	50
Female (N=1012)	49	51
Within walking distance to a park (N=1568)	50	50
Not within walking distance to a park (N=179)	40	60
Primary Language not English (N=50)	52	48
Primary Language English (N=1684)	49	51

## Race, Income, and Household Type as Factors for Satisfaction

Unfortunately, our sample did not have a large enough representation to examine racial/ethnic groups other than blacks and whites in a meaningful way. The combined other category includes responses from Hispanic, Chinese, and other groups, and as a whole, this combined minority group responded with somewhat less satisfaction than whites (not a statistically significant difference, however) and with significantly more satisfaction than blacks.

The characteristic that most dramatically differentiated groups on satisfaction was race. Of the sample of people who had opinions, 68% of the black respondents were dissatisfied as compared to 46% of the white. When we examined the total sample (including those who said they didn't know), there was another interesting difference between whites and blacks. Whites were almost twice as likely to have no opinion as blacks.

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Blacks	30	62	8
White	46	39	15

We cross-tabulated these results with income and household types to examine whether there might be some underlying factors which particularly characterize whites or blacks and might explain their differences in recreation satisfaction. For instance, if the group of blacks in our survey includes a disproportionate number of low income households compared to whites, and income is a strong determinant of satisfaction, then income, rather than race, may be the operating factor.

In table I-C, I-D and I-E the results have been broken down into various subgroups to aid in an analysis of how the race,

income and household type factors interacted. Table I-D summarizes the breakdowns along racial and income lines. Blacks' at all income levels were significantly more dissatisfied than satisfied. There were also some significant differences among each of the three income group responses of blacks. The largest percentage of dissatisfied ratings was in the middle income group (77%), followed by 67% in the high income group. Surprisingly, the income group that one might assume was the most needy, i.e. the low income group, was the most satisfied with recreation, with only 58% responding negatively. In fact, the difference between the high and low income groups is not significant even though when each is compared to the middle income group the differences are significant.

Table I-C  
RACE, INCOME, AND SATISFACTION

<u>Black</u>		<u>White</u>	
<u>Low income</u> (N=112)		<u>Low Income</u> (N=265)	
<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>
42%	58%	61%	39%
<u>Middle income</u> (N=128)			
<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>
23%	77%	51%	49%
<u>High income</u> (N=51)			
<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>
33%	67%	51%	49%

For whites, the middle and high income groups had similar frequency rates for satisfaction; they were almost as likely to be dissatisfied as satisfied with the quantity of recreational activities available. As in our group of blacks, our low income group of whites had a significantly higher frequency

level for satisfaction, with 61% of low income whites responding they were satisfied.

When income alone was viewed as a factor, there was no real difference between low and high income groups. The middle income group, though, was significantly more dissatisfied than both the low and high income groups. Perhaps this phenomenon could be explained by the fact that middle income residents expect more of a return from public services because their property taxes make a substantial dip into their incomes. Many low income residents may not pay property taxes and thus they may be satisfied with what they get, whereas high income people would tend to have means to satisfy their needs.

Another factor that seemed important in characterizing satisfaction segments was the composition of households. We asked respondents to characterize their households in one of several ways - single adults, couples with no children or no children at home, couples with children, and single adults with children at home. There were no significant differences on satisfaction between single parent and two-parent households, nor were there among the types of households without children present. The differences were significant, however, between households with children at home and those without. Our respondents were also asked to identify whether there were members of the household in each of five different age groups. In response to our general question on satisfaction, there was significantly more satisfaction with programs for older people: 57% of the respondents in households with people over 65 were satisfied with opportunities for the elderly. (See Table I). The most dissatisfaction was with opportunities for children between 6 and 12 years old: 66% of the respondents were dissatisfied. For children younger and older, the dissatisfaction rate was about 57%.

TABLE 1-D

HOUSEHOLD TYPES, INCOME AND SATISFACTION

<u>HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</u>		<u>HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN</u>	
<u>Low Income (N=124)</u>		<u>Low Income (N=253)</u>	
Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
40%	60%	62%	38%
<u>Middle Income (=297)</u>		<u>Middle Income (N=236)</u>	
Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
31%	69%	54%	46%
<u>High Income (N=174)</u>		<u>High Income (N=212)</u>	
Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
20%	80%	55%	45%

TABLE 1-E

<u>HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</u>		<u>HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN</u>	
<u>Black (N=185)</u>		<u>White (N=410)</u>	
<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>
28%	72%	44%	54%
<u>Black (N=106)</u>	<u>White (N=595)</u>		
<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>
40%	60%	60%	40%

TABLE I-F

HOUSEHOLD TYPE, RACE, INCOME, AND SATISFACTIONHOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDRENLow IncomeBlack

(N=60)

S

D

37% 63%

White

(N=64)

S

D

45% 55%

Low IncomeBlack

(N=52)

S

D

48% 52%

White

(N=201)

S D

66% 43%

Middle IncomeBlack

(N=91)

S

D

21% 79%

White

(N=206)

S

D

59% 41%

Middle IncomeBlack

(N=37)\*

S

D

27% 73%

White

(N=199)

S D

59% 41%

High IncomeBlack

(N=34)

S

D

29% 71%

White

(N=149)

S

D

45% 55%

Black

(N=17)\*

S

D

41% 59%

White

(N=195)

S D

56% 44%

\* Percentages based on samples of fewer than 50 cases should be interpreted with special caution.

Within the two types of households, with and without children, there were also differences among households of different income levels. Once again, the level of satisfaction increased as the income level decreased in both groups, however, even in the low income households with children there was a high (60%) level of dissatisfaction.

When we broke down household types by race, there was a significant difference between households with and without children, for both blacks and whites. For whites we were more likely to find satisfaction in households without children and dissatisfaction in households with children. For blacks, we were most likely to find dissatisfaction in any household, and if there were children present in the home then the likelihood of dissatisfaction increased considerably.

Finally, in Table I-F our sample is broken down by race, income, and household type. Some of the resulting subgroups are too small to have statistical meaning. In the middle income groups, it does not seem to make a difference whether or not there are children present - neither black nor white ratings change with household type. At the low and high ends of income the presence of children at home does seem to contribute to determining satisfaction to a degree.

#### RESULTS BY NEIGHBORHOOD

The satisfaction frequency ratings by neighborhood can be divided into three groups: I) neighborhoods where the rate of dissatisfaction was greater than 60% II) neighborhoods where the rates of satisfaction and dissatisfaction were very close (41-60%), and III) neighborhoods where the level of dissatisfaction was 40% or less. Table I-H lists the specific

sample size and dissatisfaction/satisfaction frequencies by neighborhood in rank order from most dissatisfied to least dissatisfied. According to our criteria, the neighborhoods can be grouped as follows for the purposes of simplification:

I.	II.	III.
<u>(Most Dissatisfied)</u>	<u>(Moderately Dissat.)</u>	<u>(Least Dissat.)</u>
Uphams Corner	Roslindale	Fenway
Roxbury	Dorchester Wd 15	North End
Jamaica Plain	Dorchester Wd 16	West Roxbury
Mattapan	Allston	Back Bay
East Boston	Savin Hill, Col Pt.	Charlestown
Dorchester Ward 17	Hyde Park	Brighton
Mission Hill	South End	South Boston

In comparing neighborhoods, it is important to note that in order for a percentage difference between neighborhood samples to be statistically significant (at the 95% confidence level), the difference must be from 15-25% depending on the size of the two samples and on the percentages obtained. To determine whether a difference between neighborhoods is real or could be due to sampling error see appendix A-1. .

In Table I-H and I-I the samples for each neighborhood are broken down into the racial, and household-type, and income components. In keeping with our citywide findings, the two neighborhoods with majority black populations were among the most dissatisfied neighborhoods, and those neighborhoods with large majority whites tended to have relatively higher

satisfaction frequencies. The neighborhood samples with relatively low percentages of households with children also tended towards the lower half of the rankings. There are however a few exceptions: East Boston, Jamaica Plain, and Roslindale had close to 60% dissatisfaction frequencies despite the fact that they had large white majorities. Many other neighborhood samples with similar racial and household type frequencies were much higher in satisfaction.

To probe the race factor a little further, we devised a test to see whether the race differential was consistent in neighborhoods that were majority black, mixed, and majority white. The results, as can be seen on Table I-J, were very interesting. In neighborhoods where whites had a substantial majority, blacks seemed to be as satisfied with recreational opportunities as whites. In neighborhoods with substantial black populations (more than 20% black), blacks were highly dissatisfied while whites tended to be more satisfied. Both blacks and whites living in majority black neighborhoods tended to be dissatisfied, however blacks tended to be more dissatisfied than whites.

Table I-G

SATISFACTION WITH QUANTITY OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES BY NEIGHBORHOOD

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Quanitity</u>	<u>Margin for Error</u>
		% Dissat. % Sat.	
1. Uphams Corner	42*	79% 21%	15%
2. Roxbury	135	73% 27%	8%
3. Jamaica Plain	88	66% 34%	10%
4. Mattapan	142	65% 35%	8%
5. East Boston	100	63% 37%	10%
6. Dorchester Wd. 17	68	62% 38%	11%
7. Mission Hill	61	61% 39%	11%
8. Roslindale	71	58% 42%	11%
9. Dorchester Wd. 15	56	54% 46%	12%
10. Dorchester Wd. 16	79	52% 48%	11%
11. Allston	90	47% 53%	9%
12. Savin Hill, Col. Pt.	59	46% 54%	12%
13. Hyde Park	85	45% 55%	10%
14. South End	100	45% 55%	9%
15. Fenway	80	40% 60%	10%
16. North End	53	38% 62%	13%
17. West Roxbury	90	38% 62%	9%
18. Back Bay	97	36% 64%	9%
19. Charlestown	46*	35% 65%	14%
20. Brighton	96	34% 66%	9%
21. South Boston	105	31% 69%	9%

\* Samples with less than 50 cases should be treated with special caution.

Table I-H

## SURVEY SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Race</u>		<u>Household Type</u>	
		<u>% Black</u>	<u>% White</u>	<u>% with Children</u>	<u>% without Children</u>
1. Uphams Corner	42*	23%	59%	67%	33%
2. Roxbury	135	77%	18%	58%	42%
3. Jamaica Plain	88	12%	85%	46%	54%
4. Mattapan	142	73%	22%	62%	38%
5. East Boston	100	4%	95%	57%	43%
6. Dorchester Wd. 17	68	38%	57%	69%	31%
7. Mission Hill	61	17%	73%	43%	57%
8. Roslindale	71	4%	94%	58%	42%
9. Dorchester Wd. 15	56	23%	70%	59%	41%
0. Dorchester Wd. 16	79	12%	85%	59%	41%
1. Allston	90	5%	89%	17%	83%
2. Savin Hill, Col Pt.	59	24%	75%	54%	46%
3. Hyde Park	85	5%	90%	60%	40%
4. South End	100	17%	75%	28%	62%
5. Fenway	80	14%	79%	17%	83%
6. North End	53	00%	100%	27%	63%
7. West Roxbury	90	3%	95%	55%	45%
8. Back Bay	97	4%	92%	16%	84%
9. Charlestown	46*	2%	98%	56%	64%
0. Brighton	96	7%	90%	52%	48%
1. South Boston	105	5%	93%	46%	54%

Samples with less than 50 cases should be treated with special caution.

TABLE I-I

## NEIGHBORHOOD SAMPLES BY INCOME

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
	<u>Size</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>
1. Uphams Corner	42	26%	49%	24%
2. Roxbury	135	46%	40%	14%
3. Jamaica Plain	88	22%	44%	34%
4. Mattapan	142	32%	45%	23%
5. East Boston	100	32%	57%	11%
6. Dorchester Wd. 17	68	35%	41%	25%
7. Mission Hill	61	28%	53%	19%
8. Roslindale	71	17%	48%	35%
9. Dorchester Wd. 15	56	37%	39%	24%
10. Dorchester Wd. 16	79	28%	46%	26%
11. Allston	90	25%	34%	41%
12. Savin Hill, Col. Pt.	59	36%	39%	25%
13. Hyde Park	85	21%	52%	27%
14. South End	100	28%	37%	35%
15. Fenway	80	34%	31%	35%
16. North End	53	31%	43%	27%
17. West Roxbury	90	17%	25%	58%
18. Back Bay	97	17%	30%	52%
19. Charlestown	46*	47%	33%	21%
20. Brighton	96	22%	36%	41%
21. South Boston	105	46%	40%	14%

\* Samples with less than 50 cases should be treated with special caution.

Table I-J

Neighborhoods With Black Majority

(Mattapan 73%, Roxbury 77%)

	S	D
Blacks (N=213)	28%	72%
Whites (N=50)	42%	58%

Neighborhoods With Between 20% and 50% Black

(Savin Hill/Columbia Point, Dorchester 15, 17, Uphams Corner)

	S	D
Blacks (N=80)	31%	69%
Whites (N=219)	52%	48%

Neighborhoods With Less Than 20% Blacks

(East Boston, Mission Hill, Roslindale, Dorchester Wd. 16, Allston, Brighton, Hyde Park, South End, Fenway, North End, West Roxbury, Back Bay, Charlestown, South Boston.)

	S	D
Blacks (N=59)	63%	37%
Whites (N=1011)	55%	45%

## II. Program Needs

### A. Current Behavior

Two questions were asked at the beginning of the survey questionnaire to provide some insight as to the kinds of recreation activities that Boston residents most frequently participate in within the city limits. People were asked what activities members of their households do most often in warm weather, and then in cold weather. Our callers coded the responses with a coded list of over 50 activities we had generated as possible responses.

For warm weather activities, the most frequent city-wide response was 'swimming and water sports', with 24% of the responses. 'Walking' was mentioned by 15% of people surveyed. 'Jogging', 'none', 'basketball', 'baseball' and 'softball', 'tennis', and 'bicycling' were all within the 4-6% range and 'sailing' trailed with 2% of the responses.

There were some demographic differences in the responses, although swimming and walking were the most frequent responses for all groups. Basketball was mentioned by 11% of blacks surveyed, while only 3% of whites mentioned it. For households with children, 'swimming' was by far the most popular activity with 32% of the responses, while in households without children 'swimming' (17%) and 'walking' (19%) were equally popular. Walking was participated in by only 9% of the households with children while 'basketball' (9%) and 'baseball' (8%) were participated in more frequently than in households without children.

There were also significant differences among income

groups. Low income respondents mentioned 'walking' (20%) and 'none' (9%) more frequently than higher income groups. Middle income respondents mentioned 'swimming' (29%) more frequently, and high income respondents mentioned 'jogging' (11%) more frequently.

For cold weather activities, the most frequent responses were 'none' (17) and 'ice skating' (15%), followed by 'walking' (7%). Other mentions were 'swimming' (3%), 'movies' (3%), 'basketball' (3%), 'T.V.' (3%), 'jogging' (3%), 'exercise' (2%) and 'bowling' (2%).

Significant differences (i.e. 3% or more) between black and white respondents were found for several activities. Blacks participated more frequently in 'basketball' (7% compared to 2% of white responses), while whites participated more often in 'ice skating' (16% compared to 11% of black responses) and 'walking' (7% compared to 3% for blacks).

In comparing households with and without children, for the households with children, 'ice skating' (23%) and 'basketball' (5%) were responded more frequently, while 'none' (15%) and 'walking' (5%) were less frequent responses. Households without children responded with 'none' (19%) and 'walking' (9%) more frequently, and less frequently with 'ice skating' (9%) and 'basketball' (2%).

The only significant differences between middle income and high income responses for cold weather activities were that 'swimming' and 'walking' were responded slightly more often by the high income group. They differed significantly, however, with the low income group in the frequency of 'none' and 'ice skating' responses. 'Ice skating' was mentioned by only 7% of low income respondents, while middle and high income frequencies were about 17%, and 'ice skating' was mentioned

more often than 'none'. For the low income group, 21% responded 'none', and this was by far the most frequent response.

Responses to the warm weather and cold weather activities questions are also broken down by neighborhood in the appendix.

Table II -A

During the warm weather, what recreation activities in city do members of your household do most often in their time?

City-wide:

1. Swimming, water sports	24%
2. Walking	15%
3. Jogging	6%
4. None	6%
5. Baseball, softball	6%
6. Basketball	5%
7. Bicycling	4%
8. Tennis	4%
9. Sailing	2%

Black (N=412)

Swimming, water sports	22%
Walking	14%
Basketball	11%
Jogging	6%
Baseball, softball	5%
Tennis	4%
None	4%
Bicycling	3%
Sailing, boating	1%

White (N=1532)

1. Swimming, water sports	25%
2. Walking	15%
3. None	7%
4. Jogging	7%
5. Baseball, softball	6%
6. Bicycling	4%
7. Tennis	4%
8. Basketball	3%
9. Sailing, boating	2%

Household's without children  
(N=1074)

Walking	19%
Swimming	17%
Jogging	8%
None	7%
Bicycling	5%
Tennis	4%
Baseball, softball	4%
Sailing, boating	2%
Basketball	2%

Household's with children  
(N=944)

1. Swimming, water sports	32%
2. Walking	9%
3. Basketball	9%
4. Baseball, softball	8%
5. None	5%
6. Jogging	4%
7. Tennis	3%
8. Bicycling	3%
9. Sailing, boating	2%

Income

Low (N=481)

Swimming	20%
Walking	20%
None	9%
Jogging	4%
Basketball	4%
Bicycling	3%
Baseball, softball	3%
Tennis	2%

Middle (N=652)

Swimming	29%
Walking	14%
Baseball, Softball	8%
Jogging	7%
Basketball	5%
None	5%
Bicycling	4%
Tennis	4%
Sailing	1%

High (N=481)

Swimming	21%
Walking	14%
Jogging	11%
Tennis	6%
Bicycling	5%
None	5%
Baseball, softball	4%
Sailing	4%
Basketball	4%

Table II-B

2A) During the cold weather, what recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often in their free times?  
City-wide:

1. None	17%
2. Ice skating	15%
3. Walking	7%
4. Swimming	3%
5. Movies	3%
6. Basketball	3%
7. T.V.	3%
8. Jogging	3%
9. Exercise	2%
10. Bowling	2%

Black (N=412)

White (N=1532)

1. None	17%	1. None	17%
2. Ice skating	11%	2. Ice skating	16%
3. Basketball	7%	3. Walking	7%
4. Bowling	4%	4. Swimming	4%
5. T.V.	3%	5. Movies	3%
6. Walking	3%	6. T.V.	3%
7. Swimming	3%	7. Jogging	3%
8. Movies	3%	8. Exercise	2%
9. Jogging	1%	9. Basketball	2%
10. Exercise	1%	10. Bowling	2%

Household's with children  
(N=944)

Household's without children  
(N=1074)

1. Ice skating	23%	1. None	
2. None	15%	2. Ice skating	
3. Basketball	5%	3. Walking	
4. Walking	5%	4. Movies	
5. Swimming	4%	5. Jogging	
6. T.V.	3%	6. T.V.	
7. Movies	3%	7. Swimming	
8. Bowling	2%	8. Exercise	
9. Jogging	2%	9. Bowling	
10. Exercise	2%	10. Basketball	

Income

<u>Low</u> (N=481)	<u>Middle</u> (N=652)	<u>High</u> (N=481)
1. None	21%	Ice skating
2. Ice skating	7%	None
3. Walking	7%	Walking
4. T.V.	5%	Swimming
5. Movies	3%	Jogging
6. Exercise	2%	Basketball
7. Swimming	2%	T.V.
8. Bowling	2%	Movies
9. Basketball	2%	Bowling
10. Jogging	1%	Exercise

B. Attitudes About Priority Programs:

Citizens were asked what they thought should be the priority programs for various segments of the population. Only those people who said they had someone within their household in the specific age groups or categories were asked about priority programs. The questions were open ended, and the survey staff was provided with a code list of recreation activities with which answers were coded:

For women's programs, the top city-wide priorities were exercise and fitness (18%), swimming and water sports (8%), and arts and crafts (6%). Team sports, tennis, dancing, and aerobic dancing all received frequency ratings of 3%, and self-defense and softball each received 2% ratings. Although there were some differences among the various race, households and income segments, the differences were not large enough to be significant.

People were asked about recreation for 5 different age groups. For most of the subgroups within the age groups, the differences between the frequency ratings are too small to be meaningful, and interpretations of the influence of demographic factors are therefore not valid.

Table II-C

4A)

Satisfaction with opportunities for women

City-wide:

Satisfied	40%
Dissatisfied	60%

-

Black (277)

(N=277)

White

(N=832)

Satisfied	29%
Dissatisfied	71%

Satisfied	44%
Dissatisfied	56%

Household's with children (633)

(N=633)

Household's without children

(N=254)

Satisfied	33%
Dissatisfied	67%

Satisfied	47%
Dissatisfied	53%

Income

Low

(N=276)

Middle

(N=378)

High

(N=262)

Satisfied	47%
Dissatisfied	53%

Satisfied	35%
Dissatisfied	65%

Satisfied	33%
Dissatisfied	67%

Table II-D

## Priority programs for women

## City-wide

1. Exercise, fitness	18%
2. Swimming	8%
3. Arts and crafts	6%
4. Team sports	3%
5. Tennis	3%
6. Dancing	3%
7. Aerobic dancing	3%
8. Basketball	2%
9. Self-defense	2%
10. Softball	2%

## Black (N=412)

## White (N=1532)

Exercise	19%	1. Exercise	18%
Arts and crafts	7%	2. Swimming	8%
Swimming, water sports	6%	3. Arts and crafts	5%
Tennis	4%	4. Team sports	4%
Self-defense	4%	5. Dancing	3%
Basketball	3%	6. Aerobic dancing	3%
Team sports	2%	7. Tennis	3%
Dancing	2%	8. Softball	2%
Softball	2%	9. Basketball	2%
Aerobic dancing	2%	10. Self-defense	1%

Household's with children  
(N=944)Household's without children  
(N=1074)

Exercise	20%	1. Exercise	16%
Swimming	9%	2. Swimming	6%
Arts and craft	6%	3. Arts and crafts	5%
Team sports	4%	4. Team sports	3%
Tennis	3%	5. Tennis	3%
Basketball	3%	6. Dancing	1%
Softball	3%	7. Aerobic dancing	1%
Self defense	2%	8. Self defense	2%
Dancing	2%	9. Basketball	3%
Aerobic dancing	2%	10. Softball	3%

## Income

Low (N=481)	Middle (N=652)	High (N=481)	
Exercise	18%	Exercise	20%
Arts and crafts	7%	Swimming	9%
Swimming	5%	Arts and crafts	5%
Dancing	3%	Team sports	4%
Basketball	3%	Arts and crafts	4%
Aerobic dancing	3%	Tennis	3%
Tennis	2%	Aerobic dancing	3%
Team sports	2%	Basketball	2%
Self-defense	1%	Softball	2%
Softball	1%	Self-defense	2%

TABLE II-E

The city-wide priorities for the various age groups are:

Children under six years old: (N=254)

Day care	16%
Swimming	15%
Arts and crafts	7%
Tiny Tots	6%
	-

Ages six to twelve years: (N=325)

Swimming	14%
Arts and crafts	12%
Team sports	10%
Gymnastic	6%
Sports training	6%
Baseball	5%

Ages twelve to twenty-one years: (N=546)

Team sports	18%
Basketball	12%
Swimming	8%
Sports training	7%
Exercise	6%
Baseball	4%

Adults:

Exercise	15%
Swimming	7%
Arts and crafts	5%
Tennis	4%
Team sports	4%
Dancing	3%

People over sixty-five: (N=468)

Arts and crafts	17%
Community social	14%
Dancing	7%
Bingo/beano/pokeno	7%
Exercise, fitness	6%

C. Expressed Needs:

In question 11, people were asked "Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do"? Forty-four percent of people surveyed responded "yes". Of those people who responded "yes", 22% responded they would like more opportunities to swim, and another 12% said they would like more opportunities to play tennis. 'Exercise, fitness' and 'basketball' each received 6% ratings, 'arts and crafts' received a 5% frequency rating, and raquetball received 4%. Receiving 31% or less were team sports (3%) bowling (3%), dancing (2%) and bicycling (2%).

Fewer blacks (17%) were interested in more opportunities for swimming than whites (25%), and more blacks (7%) were interested in bowling than were whites (2%). These were the only significant differences between these two groups.

For household types, there was only one significant difference. Households with children were significantly more interested in having more opportunities for basketball (8%) than were households with no children (3%).

It is among the income groups where the most differences occurred for this question. The middle and upper income groups were similar in most of their ratings. The low income group had significantly lower ratings for swimming (14%) and tennis (6%), while the rating for arts and crafts had a higher rating in the low income group (8%).

Table II-F

For what activities would you like more opportunities?

City-wide (553): (N=895)

1. Swimming	22%
2. Tennis	12%
3. Exercise, fitness	6%
4. Basketball	6%
5. Arts and crafts	5%
6. Raquetball	4%
7. Team sports	3%
8. Bowling	3%
9. Dancing	2%
10. Bicycling	2%

Black (N=201)

1. Swimming, water sports	17%
2. Tennis	11%
3. Bowling	7%
4. Basketball	6%
5. Arts and crafts	6%
6. Team sports	5%
7. Raquetball	3%
8. Exercise, fitness	2%
9. Bicycling	1%
10. Dancing	1%

White (N=643)

1. Swimming	37%
2. Tennis	17%
3. Exercise, fitness	10%
4. Raquetball	7%
5. Arts and crafts	7%
6. Basketball	7%
7. Dancing	4%
8. Team sports	4%
9. Bicycling	4%
10. Bowling	3%

Households with children (N=465)

1. Swimming	24%
2. Tennis	11%
3. Basketball	8%
4. Exercise, fitness	5%
5. Arts and crafts	5%
6. Team sports	4%
7. Raquetball	4%
8. Bowling	3%
9. Bicycling	2%
10. Dancing	1%

Households without children (N=)

1. Swimming	
2. Tennis	
3. Exercise	
4. Raquetball	
5. Arts and crafts	
6. Dancing	
7. Basketball	
8. Bicycling	
9. Bowling	
10. Team sports	

Income

Low (N=157)

1. Swimming	14%
2. Arts and crafts	8%
3. Tennis	6%
4. Exercise	6%
5. Basketball	5%
6. Team sports	4%
7. Bowling	3%
8. Dancing	3%
9. Raquetball	3%
10. Bicycling	2%

Middle (N=295)

1. Swimming	26%
2. Tennis	13%
3. Basketball	7%
4. Exercise	5%
5. Arts and crafts	4%
6. Raquetball	4%
7. Bicycling	3%
8. Dancing	2%
9. Bowling	2%
10. Team sports	2%

High (N=241)

1. Swimming	
2. Tennis	
3. Exercise	
4. Raquetball	
5. Basketball	
6. Team sports	
7. Bowling	
8. Dancing	
9. Bicycling	
10. Arts and crafts	

12. Do you pay an annual membership fee at a community center recreation club?

Yes	27%
No	73%

Where? or those answering Yes:

A public facility:	33%
A private club:	33%
A YMCA:	13%
A university	7%
A Boys and Girls Club	3%
Other community agencies:	4%
A church:	1%

### III. Financing

Two questions on our survey pertained to the issue of how to finance recreation programs. In questions 11c, we asked people who had identified activities for which they wish they had more opportunities if they would be willing to pay a fee so that those activities could be made available. Eighty-five percent of the people who were asked responded "yes" and 10% responded "no", with the remainder responding "don't know". Those people who were willing to pay were then asked what the most is that they would pay per session. The responses were as follows:

1. up to \$1.00	14%
2. \$1.00 to \$1.99	25%
3. \$2.00 to \$2.99	17%
4. \$3.00 to \$3.99	8%
5. \$4.00 to \$4.99	7%
6. \$5.00 or more	13%
7. don't know	15%

The differences between black and whites and between households with children and households without children were insignificant. There were, however, significant differences among each of the three income groups: 82% of the low income group were willing to pay a fee, while 91% of the middle income group and 97% of the high income group were willing to pay fees.

When asked if they currently pay an annual membership fee at a community center or recreation club, 27% said they do and 73% said they do not. Centers where people said they paid

membership fees included Community Schools, local YMCAs and other local community centers, as well as for-profit clubs. Race and household type did not effect the frequency ratings significantly, however the income level did have an effect. Only 18% of low income households paid membership fees at a recreational facility, while 28%, of middle income households and 35% of high income households paid annual membership fees.

Question 14 focused on attitudes about how city recreation programs should be financed. People were given three choices - 1) all out of local taxes, 2) some taxes and a small fee to users, 3) no taxes with users paying full cost. They were asked which of these choices should apply to programs for children, teens, elderly, and adults. The results were as follows:

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Adults</u>
1. all taxes	41%	29%	52%	23%
2. taxes and fees	51%	61%	41%	62%
3. all fees	4%	6%	3%	11%
4. don't know	5%	5%	4%	5%

More people felt that elderly programs should be fully subsidized than programs for the other age groups, but even for elderly programs forty-one percent of the people surveyed felt that a small fee would be appropriate to charge to users. For childrens' programs, a slightly larger percentage of people answered "taxes and fees" than the percentage for "all taxes". With teen programs, the percentage for "all taxes" jumped down 12 points from the percentage for children, and the percentage for adults jumped down another six points. Except for elderly

programs, the majority of respondents indicated that programs should be financed by a combination of tax revenues and small user fees.

The breakdowns by race, household and income groups can be found in Table III-A. Significantly more whites felt that programs for teens, elderly, and adults should be fully subsidized by taxes than our black respondents. Fewer whites felt these programs should be financed by a combination of taxes and fees. On the subject of childrens' programs, however, a slightly larger percentage of whites felt that programs should be financed entirely by fees, although this percentage remained small compared to the other categories.

In comparing households with and without children, the households without children had a higher percentage of responses in the "all taxes" category than households with children for programs for children, teens, and adults. More households with children felt that these programs should be financed with a combination of taxes and fees. The responses for elderly programs for the two groups were fairly similar.

For our income groups, the low income group differed significantly from the middle and high income groups on programs for all ages groups. A greater percentage of low income respondents felt that programs should be fully financed by taxes than the percentages from higher income groups, and the low income percentages for "taxes and fees" was lower. The middle income percentages for "all taxes" also were slightly higher for children, teen and adult programs than the percentages from the high income group, and the middle income percentages for "taxes and fees" were slightly lower. The responses from middle and high income groups on elderly programs were not significantly different.

11c) Would you be willing to pay a fee?

Black			White		
(N=228)			(N=684)		
Yes	No	Don't know	Yes	No	Don't know
86%	11%	2%	87%	9%	4%

11d) Maximum fee per session

	\$1	\$1-1.99	\$2-2.99	\$3-3.99	\$4-4.99	\$5 or more	Don't know
Black	16%	29%	16%	9%	7%	11%	14%
White	14%	26%	18%	7%	6%	14%	15%

Households with children			Households without children				
			Yes	No			
			88%	12%			
	\$1	\$1-1.99	\$2-2.99	\$3-3.99	\$4-4.99	\$5 or more	Don't know
Households with children	15%	26%	17%	6%	7%	14%	15%
Households without children	13%	25%	17%	10%	6%	13%	15%

Table III A (cont.)

		Low (N=475)		Middle (N=647)		High (N=480)			
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Income		82%	18%	91%	9%	97%	3%	19%	19%
		\$1	\$1-1.99	\$2-2.99	\$3-3.99	\$4-4.99	\$5 or more	14%	14%
Low		16%	26%	15%	7%	5%	13%	19%	19%
Middle		16%	24%	20%	7%	6%	14%	14%	14%
High		11%	24%	18%	9%	11%	16%	16%	12%

Table III-B

12A) Do you pay an annual membership fee at a community center or recreation club?

		Households with children		Households without children		Income	
		(N=918)		(N=1026)		(N=638)	
<u>Black</u>	(N=412)	Yes 29%	No 71%	Yes 91%	No 9%	Yes 88%	No 12%
<u>White</u>	(N=1532)	Yes 25%	No 75%	Yes 82%	No 18%	Yes 35%	No 65%
<u>City-wide</u>		Yes 27%	No 73%	Yes 27%	No 73%	Yes 35%	No 65%

Table III-C

14. We would like your opinion on how City recreation programs should be paid for...

City-wide

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Adults</u>
all taxes	41%	29%	52%	23%
taxes and fees	51%	61%	40%	61%
all fees	4%	6%	3%	11%
don't know	4%	5%	4%	5%

Black (N=412)

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Adults</u>
all taxes	41%	28%	51%	21%
taxes and fees	52%	62%	42%	64%
all fees	4%	6%	3%	11%
don't know	4%	4%	4%	4%

White (1532)

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Adults</u>
all taxes	41%	32%	58%	27%
taxes and fees	48%	56%	35%	56%
all fees	7%	7%	2%	12%
don't know	5%	5%	5%	5%

Table IIIC (cont.)

Household Type (N=918)Households with children (N=918)

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Adults</u>
all taxes	36%	25%	51%	20%
taxes and fees	55%	65%	43%	64%
all fees	5%	6%	3%	12%
don't know	3%	4%	3%	4%

Households without children (N=1026)

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Adults</u>
all taxes	44%	31%	52%	24%
taxes and fees	47%	57%	39%	60%
all fees	4%	6%	3%	10%
don't know	6%	6%	5%	6%

Table III C (cont.)

<u>Income</u>		Low (N=449)				Middle (N=638)				High (467)					
		<u>Children</u>		<u>Teens</u>		<u>Elderly</u>		<u>Children</u>		<u>Teens</u>		<u>Elderly</u>		<u>Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>
		47%	32%	57%	28%	56%	28%	40%	28%	64%	50%	44%	20%	35%	25%
all taxes		47%	32%	57%	28%	56%	28%	40%	28%	64%	50%	44%	20%	50%	20%
taxes and fees		45%	56%	56%	35%	56%	56%	52%	64%	44%	44%	66%	66%	47%	17%
all fees		4%	6%	4%	4%	6%	11%	5%	5%	3%	3%	10%	10%	4%	70%
don't know		5%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	2%	10%

#### IV. Attitudes About City Parks and Recreation Department Priorities

People were asked to rate 19 typical Parks Department functions according to how much priority each should be given by the City in spending the limited funds it has available. In Table IV-A, the functions are listed in order of city-wide percentage rankings for "high priority", and the percentage of response for each priority is given. Highest priority was given by over 80% of the respondents to improving lighting in parks, which is actually a Public Works Department responsibility in Boston, and to cleaning the parks more often. Over 70% responded that improving access for the handicapped and repairing benches and play equipment in the parks should be a high priority. In the 60th percentile were "more summer recreation programs", "more health and exercise programs", and "improve the conditions of playing fields".

On the lowest end of the high priority ratings were "provide more decorative fountains in parks" at 20%. Only 30% of people responding felt that "more soccer fields" should be a high priority. Other items receiving high priority rankings from less than 50% of our sample were "more day care/day camp programs", "more parking for major parks and ballfields", "keep city pools open year-round", and "more drinking fountains in local parks".

To test whether there might be some general factors underlying the responses, we conducted a factor analysis. We found four different groupings of items that were highly correlated. Group I, which had the highest aggregate "high priority" ratings, were all maintenance related functions. People who felt that maintenance issues are particularly

important tended to rate all of these items as high priority. In a class of its own was the "access for handicapped" item, which we will call Group II. Group III, with somewhat lower "high priority" aggregate rankings, were all recreation programming items. The last grouping consisted primarily of items which would require more capital improvements or non-programmatic, non-maintenance types of expenditures. The one exception in the group was improving tree care, which is a basic maintenance function. Perhaps tree care is generally viewed as an aesthetic aspect of the environment that is nice but not necessary to the use of public open space. The four factor analysis groupings are listed in Table IV-B, with items in each group listed by rank order of percent responding "high priority".

We also explored whether there might be differences in priorities among our race, household type, and income groupings. The major difference among the responses from the black and white households surveyed was that the black respondents tended to rate all of the items as a higher priority than the white respondents. The only two items for which there was no significant difference were "return water in the frog pond" and "keep city pools open year round". Significant differences ranged from 6 to 16 percentage points. The rank order of items for blacks was slightly different as well. "More summer recreation programs" was ranked third and "access for handicapped" and "more exercise and health programs" were also ranked above "repair benches and play equipment in parks" which was ranked third city-wide and by whites.

Significant differences in rankings were also found between responses from households with children and households without children on several items. Households with children ranked the

following items significantly more often as high priority:

- clean parks more often
- repair benches and play equipment in parks more often
- more summer recreation programs
- more exercise and health programs
- more supervised programs in parks
- more gym programs
- improve condition of playing fields
- more day care, day camp
- more soccer fields

These items all seem to be related to more active recreation purposes, as one might expect.

Among the income groups, every item tended to receive lower frequencies of high priority ratings from the high income group, higher ratings from the middle income group, and the highest ratings from the low income group. The rank ordering of items for each income group did not change, however.

Table IV-A

City-wide Priorities for Parks and Recreation Department

	<u>High Priority</u>	<u>Some Priority</u>	<u>No Priority</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
1. improve lighting in parks	82	13	4	1
2. clean parks more often	81	15	3	1
3. improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	73	22	4	1
4. repair the benches and play equipment in parks more often	73	20	5	1
5. more summer recreation programs	69	25	5	2
6. more exercise and health programs				
7. more supervised programs in parks	67	26	5	2
8. improve conditions in playing fields	64	28	5	3
9. more gym programs	64	27	7	2
10. more day care/day camp programs	59	25	11	5
11. improve tree care	54	34	11	2
12. more arts and crafts	53	33	12	2
13. return water in frog pond	53	23	18	6
14. provide more drinking fountains in local parks	49	30	18	6
15. keep city pools open year-round	48	29	20	3
16. provide more parking for major parks and ballfields	45	29	23	4
17. more soccer fields	30	32	28	10
18. provide more decorative fountains in parks	20	23	54	3

Table IV-B  
FACTOR ANALYSIS OF CITY PRIORITIES

Factor I - Improve Maintenance

		<u>% High Priority</u>	<u>Factor Loading</u>
1.	improve lighting	83	.67
2.	clean parks more often	82	.61
3.	repair benches/equipment	74	.56
4.	improve condition of playing fields	66	.52

Factor II - Access for handicapped

73

Factor III - More Programs

1.	summer recreation programs	69	.63
2.	exercise and health programs	68	.70
3.	supervised programs in parks	68	.47
4.	gym programs	65	.71
5.	arts and crafts	53	.57
6.	keep pools open year-round	48	.53
7.	day care/day camp	39	.55
8.	soccer field	30	.52

Factor IV - Miscellaneous

1.	provide more restrooms	58	.40
2.	improve tree care	54	.51
3.	return water in frog pond	56	.59
4.	more drinking fountains	49	.67
5.	more parking	45	.53
6.	more decorative fountains	20	.73

TABLE IV - C

RACE

Percent ranking item as a high priority.

		<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
1.	Improve lighting in parks	90%	81%
2.	Clean parks more often	86%	80%
3.	More summer recreation	83%	67%
4.	Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	81%	71%
5.	More exercise and health program	81%	66%
6.	Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	78%	73%
7.	More gym programs	77%	61%
8.	More day care, day camp	76%	58%
9.	Improve condition of playing fields	75%	62%
10.	More supervised programs in parks	75%	66%
11.	Provide restrooms in parks	67%	57%
12.	More arts and crafts	65%	51%
13.	Improve tree care	59%	53%
14.	Provide more drinking fountains in parks	55%	49%
15.	Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	54%	56%
16.	Provide more parking for parks and fields	54%	44%
17.	Keep city pools open year around	49%	50%
18.	More soccer fields	38%	31%
19.	Provide more decorative fountains	27%	19%

TABLE IV -D-  
HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Percent ranking item as a high priority.

	<u>Households with children</u>	<u>Households without children</u>
1. Clean parks more often	85%	80%
2. Improve lighting in parks	84%	83%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	78%	71%
4. More summer recreation	76%	65%
5. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	75%	72%
6. More exercise and health programs	74%	66%
7. More supervised programs in parks	73%	65%
8. Improve condition of playing fields	72%	60%
9. More gym programs	71%	60%
10. More day care, day camp	65%	59%
11. Improve tree care	53%	56%
12. More arts and crafts	57%	52%
13. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	55%	58%
14. Improve tree care	53%	56%
15. Keep city pools open year round	52%	47%
16. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	51%	50%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	49%	44%
18. More soccer fields	36%	30%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	21%	20%

TABLE IV - E

Income

Percent ranking item as a high priority.

	<u>Low</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	84%	83%	80%
2. Clean parks more often	82%	84%	79%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	74%	76%	70%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	79%	73%	66%
5. More summer recreation	74%	71%	66%
6. More exercise and health programs	73%	69%	63%
7. More supervised programs in parks	73%	68%	65%
8. More gym programs	66%	67%	60%
9. Improve condition of playing fields	65%	68%	59%
10. More day care, day camp	65%	67%	56%
11. Provide restrooms in parks	64%	64%	50%
12. Improve tree care	60%	52%	48%
13. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	60%	55%	54%
14. More arts and crafts	64%	56%	42%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	55%	51%	44%
16. Keep city pools open year round	51%	51%	48%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	52%	46%	37%
18. More soccer fields	40%	32%	28%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	31%	18%	11%

## V. Conclusions

In Boston, as many people seem to be dissatisfied with the available recreation opportunities as there are people who are satisfied with what is available. Groups which tend to be more dissatisfied include blacks, middle income households, households with children and households that are not located within walking distance to a park. There were also significant differences in satisfaction among the neighborhoods of Boston, particularly those neighborhoods with larger black populations. There seems to be a great deal of room for improving the quality and quantity of recreational services in Boston, especially for certain neighborhoods and certain population segments.

The most popular recreation activities include swimming, walking, ice skating, basketball, tennis, and baseball and softball. Over forty percent of people surveyed felt they would like more opportunities for recreation activities which members of their households enjoy doing. Those activities for which they wanted more opportunities included swimming, tennis, exercise, basketball, arts and crafts and raquetball. The majority of people polled would be willing to pay a fee so that such activities could be made available, even in the low income group.

Most people felt that city recreation programs for children, teens, and adults should be paid for with a combination of taxes and user fees. Over 50% of our sample felt that programs for the elderly should be financed entirely with taxes, however a sizeable group(41%) also felt that a combination of taxes and user fees would be appropriate. We also found that more whites, more households without children, and more low income respondents tended to feel that programs

should be subsidized by taxes. Even with our low income group, however, we found considerable support for subsidizing recreation programs with user fees.

People also felt that the City should place the highest priority on improving lighting in parks and cleaning parks more often. Also high priority should be given to 'improving access for the handicapped', repairing benches and play equipment in parks', 'more summer recreation programs', 'more health and exercise programs', and 'improving the condition of playing fields'. On the lower end of the priority ratings were 'providing more decorative fountains', 'more soccer fields', 'more parking for major parks and fields', 'more drinking fountains' and 'keeping city pools open'. Except for the last item, the lower priorities we all related to capital improvements.

It appears that the Parks Department administration was on target when budget cuts were made as a result of Proposition 2 1/2. Heaviest hit within the Parks Department budget was the area of capital improvements (100% cut initially). The Recreation Division was cut 81%, and the Maintenance Division was cut by about 40%.

The Parks Department budget has regained some of its funding since the original Proposition 2 1/2 cutbacks, and its budget is currently at about 75% of the level it was at prior to the cutbacks. It is very unlikely that we will see any further growth in city funding in the near future, however.

In order to continue to maintain our facilities and provide some accesss to recreation opportunities to people of all backgrounds, income levels and areas of the city, we must look at new ways of financing services and utilizing available resources.

The survey results indicate that there is a general trend that supports financing city programs with small users fees. Even people with limited resources would be willing to pay a minimal fee for programs that would meet their needs; a finding which may be of interest to some non-profit community centers as well as City officials.

The outlook for increasing future tax-base revenues for recreation is not promising. It is not likely that the Parks and Recreation Department will receive any greater share of the City's revenues, nor does the prospect of general tax reform seem imminent. Many of the community non-profit centers which have tended to serve the lower income residents of the neighborhoods have not been able to pick up much of the slack either, since they are faced with what is a national trend of intensely heightened competition for private philanthropic dollars due in part to reduced federal support of community and social services.

Small user fees could be an important supplement to City tax revenues allocated for recreation, however there are some questions about the feasibility of the City charging fees directly for programs in public facilities which may need to be addressed by a change in law. In the meantime, other ways of expanding resources for recreation might be explored. The Parks Department has recently begun a partnership program with many non-profit community organizations. By supporting these groups, we may help avert the demise of other recreation providers while they help us expand our limited services and programs. Other means of expanding resources should also be explored, like developing concessions and vending arrangements that could benefit the parks more substantially.

In the meantime, it is clear that our priority should be to maintain the physical resources that we have to prevent any deterioration. Beyond that, our survey indicates that Bostonians feel we should give some priority to restoring recreation programs and improving access for the handicapped. As opportunities arise to restore services, we might keep in mind the neighborhoods and population groups which our survey indicates are particularly dissatisfied as we target additional services.

PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCES NEEDED FOR 95 PERCENT CONFIDENCE LEVEL  
 WHEN COMPARING PERCENTAGE FIGURES FOR TWO GROUPS

For Percentages Around 50 Percent

<u>Number of Interviews</u>	<u>Number of Interviews</u>						
	<u>30</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>900</u>
30	26	24	20	20	20	19	19
50		22	19	18	18	15	14
100			16	14	14	11	11
150				13	12	9	9
200					11	8	8
500						6	6

For Percentages Around 30 or 70 Percent

<u>Number of Interviews</u>	<u>Number of Interviews</u>						
	<u>30</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>900</u>
30	24	21	19	18	18	17	17
50		20	18	17	16	14	13
100			14	13	12	10	10
150				12	11	9	8
200					10	8	7
500						6	5

Appendix AII

1980 Census

Total Population 562,994

Race, origin

Black	-	22.5%
White		70.5%
Hispanic		6.5%
Chinese		2.0%

Age

Under 6 years	6.3%
6 to 13 years	8.3%
14 to 21 years	17.3%
21 to 64 years	54.6%
65 or over	12.6%

Household Types

Households with children	47.7%
Households without children	52.3%
Single parent households	18.8% or 39.6% of households with children.

Income (% of households)

Low (Under \$10,000)	40.3%
Middle (\$10,000 - 25,000)	40.5%
High (Over \$25,000)	19.2%

Race and Income (% of households)

	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Low	42.8%	23.9%
Middle	42.4%	43.7%
High	14.8%	32.4%

1980 Census

	<u>% under 18 years olds</u>	<u>% over 65</u>
1. East Boston	22	16
2. Charlestown	23	12
3. North End	9	16
4. Back Bay/Beacon Hill	~ 5	7
5. Fenway	5	7
6. South Boston	22	16
7. South End	19	13
8. Roxbury	34	9
9. Mattapan/Franklin Field	37	6
10. Mission Hill	27	11
11. Uphams Corner	38	7
12. Savin Hill/Col. Pt.	27	12
13. Dorchester/Wd. 15	36	10
14. Dorchester/Wd. 16	25	18
15. Dorchester/Wd. 17	34	11
16. Hyde Park	24	15
17. Jamaica Plain	24	17
18. Roslindale	26	20
19. West Roxbury	19	23
20. Allston	7	14
21. Brighton	14	11

1980 Census

	<u>% Black</u>	<u>% White</u>	<u>Total Population</u>
1. East Boston	0	98	32,285
2. Charlestown	0	98	13,313
3. North End	2	96	14,691
4. Back Bay/Beacon Hill	3	91	33,080
5. Fenway	14	78	28,134
6. South Boston	0	99	31,209
7. South End	31	43	33,932
8. Roxbury	83	7	36,134
9. Mattapan/Franklin Field	86	10	45,545
10. Mission Hill	28	47	20,253
11. Uphams Corner	41	27	7,972
12. Savin Hill/Col. Pt.	11	84	15,160
13. Dorchester/Wd. 15	33	51	16,383
14. Dorchester/Wd. 16	1	97	24,040
15. Dorchester/Wd. 17	52	43	23,155
16. Hyde Park	9	89	27,179
17. Jamaica Plain	12	75	29,990
18. Roslindale	4	94	23,051
19. West Roxbury	1	98	30,030
20. Allston	5	82	33,078
21. Brighton	3	86	31,875

Attitudes About ProgramsEast Boston  
(N=111)Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming 41%
2. Walking 7%
3. Baseball, softball 8%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Ice skating 24%
2. None 14%
3. T.V. 5%

Attitudes about prioritiesWomen's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness 22%
2. Swimming 12%
3. Arts and crafts 7%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness 19%
2. Swimming, water sports 7%
3. Arts and Crafts 5%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 56%

11b) What are they? (N=40)

1. Swimming 30%
2. Basketball 15%
3. Arts and crafts 15%
4. Raquetball 15%

Charlestown  
(N=52)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming
2. Walking
3. Baseball, softball

42%  
10%  
5%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Ice skating
2. Swimming
- Movie

14  
6  
6

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Aerobic dancing

17%  
8%  
6%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming, water sports
3. Arts and Crafts

12  
14  
6

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes      39%

11b) What are they?      (N=12)

1. Swimming      33%
2. Tennis      25%
3. Exercise      8%
- Basketball      8%
- Dancing      8%
- Raquetball      8%
- Bowling      8%

North End  
(N=61)

### Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Swimming	26%	1. None	26%
2. Walking	21%	2. Ice skating	15%
3. None	10%	3. Walking	5%

### Attitudes about priorities:

### Women's Priority Programs

## Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise	18%	1. Swimming	15%
2. Swimming	10%	2. Team sports	8%
Team sports	10%	3. Exercise, fitness	7%

## Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 33%

11b) What are they? (N=11)

1. Swimming	27%
2. Arts and crafts	18%
Team sports	18%

Back Bay

(N=123)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Jogging
2. Walking
3. Swimming

20%  
20%  
11%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Walking
2. None
3. Ice skating

16%  
9%  
8%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Aerobic dancing
- Swimming

12%  
6%  
6%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Tennis
3. Swimming

17%  
11%  
6%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes                    43%

11b) What are they?                    (N=46)

1. Swimming                    35%
2. Tennis                    33%
3. Exercise, Fitness                    15%

Fenway  
(N=105)

### Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Walking	- 25%	1. None	23%
2. Jogging	13%	2. Ice skating	11%
3. Swimming	11%	3. Walking	10%

#### Attitudes about priorities:

## Women's Priority Programs

## Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	23%	1. Exercise, fitness	20%
2. Self defense	8%	2. Swimming	11%
3. Swimming	7%	3. Arts and crafts	5%
		Tennis	5%
		Team Sports	5%

## Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 54%

11b) What are they? (N=36)

1. Swimming	28%
2. Tennis	19%
3. Raquetball	14%

South Boston  
(N=121)

### Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Swimming	46%
2. Walking	11%
3. Baseball, softball	7%

1. Ice skating	14
2. None	12
3. Bowling	5

### Attitudes about priorities:

### Women's Priority Programs

### Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness 21%
2. Arts and Crafts 9%
3. Team sports 5%

- 1. Exercise, fitness 14
- 2. Swimming 6
- Dancing 6

### Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 26%

11b) What are they? (N=16)

1. Swimming	38%
2. Raquetball	19%
3. Tennis	14%
Dancing	13%
Team sports	13%

South End

(N=118)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Walking	- 32%
2. Swimming	11%
3. Tennis	8%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Walking	14%
2. None	8%
3. Swimming	5%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	19%
2. Swimming	8%
3. Tennis	3%
Dancing	3%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	19%
2. Swimming	6%
Arts and crafts	6%
Tennis	6%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes                    39%

11b) What are they?                    (N=33)

1. Swimming	30%
2. Bicycling	18%
3. Tennis	15%

Roxbury  
(N=146)

### Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Walking	- 21%	1. None	14%
2. Swimming	15%	2. Skating	14%
3. Basketball	11%	3. Basketball	9%

#### Attitudes about priorities:

## Women's Priority Programs

### Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	16%	1. Exercise, fitness	12%
2. Arts and crafts	11%	2. Arts and crafts	6%
3. Swimming	6%	Basketball	6%
Tennis	6%		

### Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 51%

11b) What are they? (N=46)

1. Tennis	26%
2. Swimming	22%
3. Basketball	13%

Mattapan

(N=160)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming	28%
2. Basketball	11%
3. Walking	8%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. None	17%
2. Ice skating	9%
3. Basketball	6%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	21%
2. Swimming	7%
3. Arts and crafts	6%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	21%
2. Arts and crafts	5%
3. Team sports	4%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 48%

11b) What are they? (N=44)

1. Swimming	26%
2. Tennis	14%
3. Basketball	11%

Mission Hill

(N=75)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Walking
2. Jogging
3. Basketball

- 20%  
13%  
9%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. None
2. Walking
3. Movies

23%  
15%  
7%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Tennis
- Arts and crafts
- Basketball
- Self-defense

9%  
4%  
4%  
4%  
4%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Swimming
2. Exercise, fitness
3. Arts and crafts
- Community social
- Basketball

9%  
5%  
4%  
4%  
4%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 35%

11b) What are they? (N=17)

1. Swimming 41%
2. Basketball 29%
3. Team sports 12%
- Tennis 12%

Uphams Corner

(N=45)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

- 1. Swimming
- 2. Walking
- 3. None

2A) during the cold weather?

- 27%
- 16%
- 9%

- 1. None
- 2. Ice Skating
- 3. Walking

24%  
13%  
11%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

- 1. Exercise, fitness 16%
- 2. Swimming 11%
- 3. Aerobic dancing 4%
- Self-defense 4%

Adults' Priority Programs

- 1. Exercise, fitness 13%
- 2. Swimming, water sports 9%
- 3. Tennis 4%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 34%

11b) What are they? (N=11)

- 1. Swimming, water sports 41%
- 2. Tennis 36%
- 3. Basketball 9%
- Arts and crafts 9%

Columbia Point

(N=68)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming
2. Walking
3. Basketball

- 35%  
13%  
7%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. None
2. Walking
3. Basketball

19%  
10%  
4%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Softball

25%  
13%  
4%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming,
3. Team sports

Dancing

16%  
7%  
6%  
6%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 52%

11b) What are they? (N=52)

1. Swimming, water sports 28%
2. Exercise, fitness 22%
- Team sports 22%
3. Basketball 11%

Dorchester Wd. 15

(N=66)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming
2. None
3. Baseball, softball

2A) during the cold weather?

1. None
2. Ice skating
3. Bowling

Basketball

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Arts and crafts
3. Swimming

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Arts and crafts

Team sports

Wants and Needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 41%

11b) What are they? (N=19)

1. Swimming
2. Exercise, fitness
3. Tennis

Arts and crafts

Basketball

Dorchester Wd. 16

(N=85)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming
2. Baseball, softball
3. Basketball

37%  
12%  
7%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. None
2. Ice skating
3. Jogging, Basketball

19%  
18%  
5%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Arts and crafts

20%  
7%  
5%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Dancing

8%  
6%  
4%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 49%

11b) What are they? (N=27)

1. Swimming 41%
2. Tennis 22%
3. Bicycling 7%
- Raquetball 7%
- Arts and crafts 7%

## Dorchester Wd. 17

(N=81)

### Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Swimming	- 19%	1. Ice skating	15%
2. None	12%	2. None	14%
3. Walking	10%	3. T.V.	9%

### Attitudes about priorities:

## Women's Priority Programs

## Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	19%	1. Exercise, fitness	14%
2. Arts and crafts	5%	2. Arts and crafts	6%
3. Self-defense	3%	3. Swimming	5%
Softball	3%	Tennis	5%

## Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 49%

11b) What are they? (N=22)

1. Swimming	46%
2. Basketball	18%
3. Tennis	14%

Hyde Park

(N=96)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often

1A) during the warm weather? 2A) during the cold weather?

1. Swimming	31%	1. Ice skating	25%
2. Walking	7%	2. None	8%
3. Baseball, softball	6%	3. T.V.	7%

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	18%
2. Arts and crafts	9%
3. Swimming	5%

Adult's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	17%
2. Arts and crafts	8%
3. Swimming	5%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 27%

11b) What are they? (N=15)

1. Swimming	53%
2. Exercise, fitness	20%

Jamaica Plain  
(N=103)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Walking
2. Swimming
3. Jogging

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Ice skating
2. None
3. Walking

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Arts and crafts

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Team sports

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes      47%

11b) What are they?      (N=31)

1. Swimming      36%
2. Tennis      19%
3. Team sports      16%

Roslindale

(N=84)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming	30%
2. Baseball, softball	10%
3. None	8%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Ice skating	30%
2. None	12%
3. Swimming	4%
4. Bowling	

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	17%
2. Swimming	8%
3. Arts and crafts	8%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	17%
2. Swimming	8%
3. Team sports	6%
Tennis	6%
Basketball	6%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes      48%

11b) What are they?      (N=29)

1. Tennis	31%
2. Swimming	24%
3. Raquetball	10%
Dancing	10%
Basketball	10%

West Roxbury

(N=112)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming
2. None
3. Walking

- 22%  
17%  
9%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. None
2. Ice skating
3. Walking

Swimming 5%

Wants and needs:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness 18%
2. Swimming 8%
3. Team sports 6%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness 16%
2. Arts and crafts 8%
3. Swimming 6%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 43%

11b) What are they? (N=34)

1. Swimming 53%
2. Tennis 18%
3. Arts and carfts 9%

Allston  
(N=119)

### Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Swimming	- 18%	1. None	24
2. Jogging	11%	2. Ice skating	16
None	11%	3. Walking	8

### Attitudes:

### Women's Priority Programs

### Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness	20%	1. Exercise, fitness	20%
2. Swimming	8%	2. Swimming	8%
3. Tennis	6%	3. Team sports	5%

### Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes 44%

11b) What are they? (N=38)

1. Swimming	40%
2. Tennis	24%
3. Exercise, fitness	11%

Brighton  
(N=116)

Behavior:

What recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often?

1A) during the warm weather?

1. Swimming
2. Walking
3. Baseball, softball

- 18%  
16%  
11%

2A) during the cold weather?

1. Ice skating
2. None
3. Exercises, fitness

25%  
17%  
7%

Attitudes about priorities:

Women's Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Street hockey
3. Aerobic dancing

16%  
9%  
7%

Adults' Priority Programs

1. Exercise, fitness
2. Swimming
3. Tennis

21%  
6%  
5%

Wants and needs:

11a) Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

Yes      44%

11b) What are they?      (N=38)

1. Swimming
2. Tennis
3. Exercise, fitness

32%  
16%  
11%



Appendix-A.- IV

City Priorities

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>East Boston (N=111)</u>	<u>Margin of error: 10%</u>
1. Clean parks more often	84%
2. Improve lighting in parks	82%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	79%
4. More exercise and health programs	77%
5. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	75%
6. More summer recreation	75%
7. More supervised programs in parks	75%
8. More gym programs	73%
9. Improve condition of playing fields	71%
10. More arts and crafts	69%
11. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	67%
12. Improve tree care	60%
13. Provide restrooms in parks	59%
14. Keep city pools open year round	58%
15. More day care, day camps	56%
16. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	53%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	53%
18. More soccer fields	31%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	27%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Charlestown (N=52)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 14%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	65%
2. Clean parks more often	65%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	64%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	60%
5. More summer recreation	56%
6. More supervised programs in parks	56%
7. Provide restrooms in parks	54%
8. More gym programs	52%
9. Improve condition of playing fields	52%
10. More exercise and health programs	46%
11. More day care, day camps	44%
12. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	40%
13. More arts and crafts	40%
14. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	39%
15. Provide more parking for parks and fields	37%
16. Improve tree care	35%
17. Keep city pools open year round	31%
18. More soccer fields	19%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	10%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>North End (N=61)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 13%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	89%
2. Clean parks more often	80%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	77%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	72%
5. Improve condition of playing fields	72%
6. More exercise and health programs	69%
7. Provide restrooms in parks	66%
8. More supervised programs in parks	64%
9. More day care, day camps	62%
10. More summer recreation	61%
11. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	61%
12. Improve tree care	59%
13. More gym programs	57%
14. More arts and crafts	57%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	54%
16. Keep city pools open year round	49%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	49%
18. More soccer fields	28%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	25%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Back Bay ( N=123 )</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 9%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	76%
2. Clean parks more often	74%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	63%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	58%
5. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	56%
6. More day care, day camps	55%
7. Improve tree care	55%
8. More exercise and health programs	53%
9. More summer recreation	50%
10. More gym programs	50%
11. Keep city pools open year round	50%
12. More supervised programs in parks	49%
13. Provide restrooms in parks	48%
14. Improve condition of playing fields	46%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	46%
16. More arts and crafts	34%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	30%
18. More soccer fields	29%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	16%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority some priority or no priority?

<u>Fenway (N=105)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 10%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	83%
2. Clean parks more often	77%
3. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	70%
4. More summer recreation	65%
5. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	62%
6. More exercise and health programs	62%
7. More day care, day camps	61%
8. Provide restrooms in parks	55%
9. Improve tree care	53%
10. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	51%
11. More supervised programs in parks	51%
12. More gym programs	50%
13. More arts and crafts	47%
14. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	46%
15. Keep city pools open year around	44%
16. Improve condition of playing fields	42%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	41%
18. More soccer fields	21%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	14%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>South Boston (N=12)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 9%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	82%
2. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	81%
3. Clean parks more often	79%
4. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	74%
5. Improve condition of playing fields	70%
6. More summer recreation	69%
7. Provide restrooms in parks	65%
8. More exercise and health programs	63%
9. More supervised programs in parks	63%
10. More gym programs	61%
11. Improve tree care	60%
12. More day care, day camps	55%
13. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	52%
14. More arts and crafts	52%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	50%
16. Provide more parking for parks and fields	48%
17. Keep city pools open year round	46%
18. More soccer fields	35%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	23%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>South End (N=118)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 9%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	84%
2. Clean parks more often	84%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	76%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	72%
5. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	65%
6. More day care, day camps	64%
7. More exercise and health programs	64%
8. More supervised programs in parks	64%
9. More summer recreation	62%
10. More gym programs	62%
11. Improve tree care	59%
12. Improve condition of playing fields	57%
13. Provide restrooms in parks	57%
14. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	53%
15. More arts and crafts	48%
16. Keep city pools open year round	47%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	37%
18. More soccer fields	22%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	16%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Roxbury (N=146)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 8%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	93%
2. Clean parks more often	89%
3. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	84%
4. More summer recreation	84%
5. More exercise and health programs	84%
6. More gym programs	80%
7. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	75%
8. More supervised programs in parks	74%
9. More day care, day camps	71%
10. Improve condition of playing fields	71%
11. More arts and crafts	69%
12. Provide restrooms in parks	64%
13. Improve tree care	60%
14. Provide more parking for parks and fields	58
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	58%
16. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	51%
17. Keep city pools open year round	42%
18. More soccer fields	38%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	33%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Mattapan (N=160)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 8%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	93%
2. Clean parks more often	89%
3. More summer recreation	86%
4. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	84%
5. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	84%
6. More exercise and health programs	84%
7. Improve condition of playing fields	82%
8. More supervised programs in parks	80%
9. More gym programs	79%
10. Provide restrooms in parks	74%
11. More day care, day camps	74%
12. Improve tree care	68%
13. More arts and crafts	67%
14. Provide more parking for parks and fields	64%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	58%
16. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	54%
17. Keep city pools open year round	53%
18. More soccer fields	41%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	27%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

Mission Hill (N=74)

(Margin of error: 11%)

1. Improve lighting in parks	84%
2. Clean parks more often	77%
3. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	73%
4. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	71%
5. More summer recreation	70%
6. More exercise and health programs	66%
7. More gym programs	64%
8. Improve condition of playing fields	64%
9. More supervised programs in parks	62%
10. More day care, day camps	62%
11. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	58%
12. Improve tree care	56%
13. Provide restrooms in parks	55%
14. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	49%
15. Provide more parking for parks and fields	46%
16. More arts and crafts	45%
17. Keep city pools open year round	45%
18. More soccer fields	33%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	19%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Uphams Corner (N=44)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 15%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	91%
2. Clean parks more often	82%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	77%
4. Improve condition of playing fields	77%
5. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	73%
6. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	68%
7. More exercise and health programs	68%
8. More gym programs	61%
9. More day care, day camps	59%
10. More supervised programs in parks	57%
11. Provide restrooms in parks	57%
12. More summer recreation	55%
13. Improve tree care	50%
14. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	50%
15. Provide more parking for parks and fields	46%
16. More arts and crafts	36%
17. Keep city pools open year round	30%
18. More soccer fields	25%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	16%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Columbia Point (N=68)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 12%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	81%
2. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	79%
3. Clean parks more often	78%
4. More summer recreation	78%
5. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	74%
6. More supervised programs in parks	75%
7. More exercise and health programs	72%
8. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	69%
9. More gym programs	68%
10. Improve condition of playing fields	65%
11. More day care, day camps	65%
12. Provide restrooms in parks	62%
13. Keep city pools open year round	62%
14. Improve tree care	53%
15. More arts and crafts	52%
16. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	52%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	46%
18. More soccer fields	32%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	19%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Dorchester Wd 15 (N=65)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 12%)</u>
1. Clean parks more often	88%
2. Improve lighting in parks	85%
3. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	80%
4. Improve condition of playing fields	80%
5. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	77%
6. More summer recreation	71%
7. More supervised programs in parks	71%
8. More gym programs	68%
9. More exercise and health programs	66%
10. Provide restrooms in parks	62%
11. Improve tree care	62%
12. More day care, day camps	60%
13. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	57%
14. More arts and crafts	54%
15. Keep city pools open year round	54%
16. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	52%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	42%
18. More soccer fields	37%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	25%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Dorchester Wd 16 (N=84)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: %)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	86%
2. Clean parks more often	85%
3. More exercise and health programs	77%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	73%
5. More supervised programs in parks	73%
6. More summer recreation	69%
7. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	68%
8. More gym programs	67%
9. Improve condition of playing fields	64%
10. More day care, day camps	61%
11. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	58%
12. More arts and crafts	56%
13. Provide restrooms in parks	51%
14. Improve tree care	48%
15. Provide more parking for parks and fields	84%
16. Keep city pools open year round	46%
17. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	42%
18. More soccer fields	37%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	17%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Dorchester Wd. 17 (N=81)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 11%)</u>
1. Clean parks more often	88%
2. Improve lighting in parks	82%
3. More summer recreation	82%
4. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	75%
5. More supervised programs in parks	74%
6. More gym programs	74%
7. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	69%
8. More exercise and health programs	67%
9. Improve condition of playing fields	67%
10. More day care, day camps	62%
11. More arts and crafts	57%
12. Keep city pools open year round	57%
13. Provide restrooms in parks	52%
14. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	48%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	44%
16. Improve tree care	40%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	38%
18. More soccer fields	32%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	10%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Hyde Park (N=96)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 10%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	74%
2. Clean parks more often	73%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	72%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	71%
5. More supervised programs in parks	68%
6. More exercise and health programs	56%
7. More summer recreation	66%
8. Improve condition of playing fields	63%
9. More gym programs	58%
10. Provide restrooms in parks	56%
11. More arts and crafts	54%
12. More day care, day camps	49%
13. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	48%
14. Improve tree care	41%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	41%
16. Provide more parking for parks and fields	40%
17. Keep city pools open year round	35%
18. More soccer fields	27%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	19%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Jamaica Plain (N=103)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 10%)</u>
1. Clean parks more often	84%
2. Improve lighting in parks	78%
3. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	71%
4. More exercise and health programs	68%
5. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	67%
6. More supervised programs in parks	66%
7. More summer recreation	63%
8. Keep city pools open year round	58%
9. More day care, day camps	57%
10. More gym programs	56%
11. Provide restrooms in parks	56%
12. Improve condition of playing fields	54%
13. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	52%
14. More arts and crafts	52%
15. Improve tree care	47%
16. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	47%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	26%
18. More soccer fields	23%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	11%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Roslindale (N=83)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 11%)</u>
1. Clean parks more often	90%
2. Improve lighting in parks	80%
3. More exercise and health programs	74%
4. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	73%
5. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	73%
6. More summer recreation	70%
7. More supervised programs in parks	70%
8. Improve condition of playing fields	67%
9. More gym programs	66%
10. Provide restrooms in parks	64%
11. Keep city pools open year round	55%
12. Provide more parking for parks and fields	54%
13. More arts and crafts	52%
14. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	50%
15. Improve tree care	49%
16. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	48%
17. More day care, day camps	48%
18. More soccer fields	23%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	16%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>West Roxbury (N=112)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 9%)</u>
1. Improve lighting in parks	80%
2. Clean parks more often	80%
3. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	77%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	71%
5. More supervised programs in parks	68%
6. More exercise and health programs	65%
7. More summer recreation	64%
8. More gym programs	63%
9. Improve condition of playing fields	63%
10. More arts and crafts	56%
11. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	55%
12. Keep city pools open year round	55%
13. Provide restroom in parks	51%
14. Provide more parking for parks and fields	51%
15. Improve tree care	49%
16. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	49%
17. More day care, day camps	49%
18. More soccer fields	33%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	25%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Allston (N=119)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 9%)</u>
1. Clean parks more often	80%
2. Improve lighting in parks	79%
3. More exercise and health programs	71%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	70%
5. More summer recreation	70%
6. More supervised programs in parks	70%
7. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	69%
8. More gym programs	64%
9. More day care, day camps	62%
10. Improve condition of playing fields	59%
11. Improve tree care	56%
12. Provide restrooms in parks	50%
13. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	47%
14. More arts and crafts	45%
15. Keep city pools open year round	42%
16. Provide more parking for parks and fields	41%
17. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	40%
18. More soccer fields	25%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	18%

How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority?

<u>Brighton (N=116)</u>	<u>(Margin of error: 9%)</u>
1. Repair benches and play equipment in parks more often	75%
2. Improve lighting in parks	70%
3. Clean parks more often	70%
4. Improve access to parks and buildings for handicapped	61%
5. More exercise and health programs	61%
6. More supervised programs in parks	60%
7. More summer recreation	57%
8. Improve condition of playing fields	55%
9. Provide restrooms in parks	50%
10. More gym programs	48%
11. More day care, day camp	48%
12. More arts and crafts	47%
13. Improve tree care	44%
14. Keep city pools open year round	40%
15. Provide more drinking fountains in parks	39%
16. Return water in frog pond at Boston Common	35%
17. Provide more parking for parks and fields	29%
18. More soccer fields	22%
19. Provide more decorative fountains	13%



PARKS AND RECREATION  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

CALLER: Screen for 18 years of age or older.

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling from the City of Boston Survey Research Office. We are conducting a survey in your area on your use and satisfaction with recreation opportunities, and on suggestions for their improvement. We would appreciate your participation in the survey.

---

1a. During the warm weather, what recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often in their free time?

---

---

(\_\_\_\_)

1b. Where?

---

SPECIFIC FACILITY/LOCATION

(\_\_\_\_)

2a. During the cold weather what recreation activities in the city do members of your household do most often in their free time?

---

---

(\_\_\_\_)

2b. Where?

---

SPECIFIC FACILITY/LOCATION

(\_\_\_\_)

We are interested in finding out how satisfied you are with the opportunities for recreation such as ORGANIZED SPORTS, DANCE, EXERCISE, SWIMMING, ARTS, AND GYM PROGRAMS in your neighborhood.

3a. In general would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the quantity of recreation activities available in your neighborhood?

1. satisfied
2. dissatisfied
3. don't know

(\_\_\_\_)



3b. What about the overall quality of neighborhood programs?

1. satisfied
2. dissatisfied
3. don't know

( )

### 3c. The physical condition of neighborhood recreation centers?

1. satisfied
2. dissatisfied
3. don't know

( )

4a. What about opportunities for active recreation for women and girls in your neighborhood?

1. satisfied
2. dissatisfied
3. don't know

( 一 )

4b. What type of program would you give the highest priority for women and girls?

---

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5a. Are any members of your household between the ages of 12 and 21?

1. yes  
1. no - skip to Ques. #6a.

How many are Male \_\_\_\_\_  
Female \_\_\_\_\_

M( )  
F( )

5b. What about recreation opportunities in your neighborhood for youths between the ages of 12 and 21? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

1. very satisfied
2. satisfied
3. dissatisfied
4. very dissatisfied
5. don't know/no opinion
6. none in neighbourhood

( )

5c. What types of programs would you give the highest priority for this age group?

---

( )



6a. Are any members of your household between the ages of 6 and 12?

1. yes
2. no - skip to Ques. #7a.

(\_\_\_\_)

How many are Male \_\_\_\_\_  
Female \_\_\_\_\_

M(\_\_\_\_)  
F(\_\_\_\_)

6b. What about recreation programs (outside of school) for children in this age group? Would you say you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

1. very satisfied
2. satisfied
3. dissatisfied
4. very satisfied
5. don't know/no opinion
6. none in neighborhood

(\_\_\_\_)

6c. What types of programs would you give the highest priority for children this age?

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_)

7a. Are there any children in your household under the age of 6?

1. yes
2. no - skip to Ques. #8a.

(\_\_\_\_)

How many are Male \_\_\_\_\_  
Female \_\_\_\_\_

M(\_\_\_\_)  
F(\_\_\_\_)

7b. What about recreation programs for children under the age of 6? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied.

1. very satisfied
2. satisfied
3. dissatisfied
4. very dissatisfied
5. don't know/no opinion
6. none in neighborhood

(\_\_\_\_)

7c. What types of recreation activities would you give highest priority for children under six?

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_)



8a. Are there any people over the age of 65 in your household?

1. yes
2. no - skip to Ques. #9a

(\_\_\_\_)

How many are Male \_\_\_\_\_  
Female \_\_\_\_\_

M(\_\_\_\_)  
F(\_\_\_\_)

8b. What about recreation activities for people over 65, like dance, exercise, arts & crafts, and social activities? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

1. very satisfied
2. satisfied
3. dissatisfied
4. very dissatisfied
5. don't know/no opinion
6. none in neighborhood

(\_\_\_\_)

8c. What type of recreation programs would you give highest priority for senior citizens?

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_)

9a. How many adults (over 21 but under 65) are there in your household?

\_\_\_\_\_ - if 0, skip to Ques. #10a

(\_\_\_\_)

How many are Male \_\_\_\_\_  
Female \_\_\_\_\_

M(\_\_\_\_)  
F(\_\_\_\_)

9b. What about recreation programs for adults? Would you say you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

1. very satisfied
2. satisfied
3. dissatisfied
4. very dissatisfied
5. don't know/no opinion
6. none in neighborhood

(\_\_\_\_)

9c. What type of recreation programs would you give highest priority for adults?

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_)



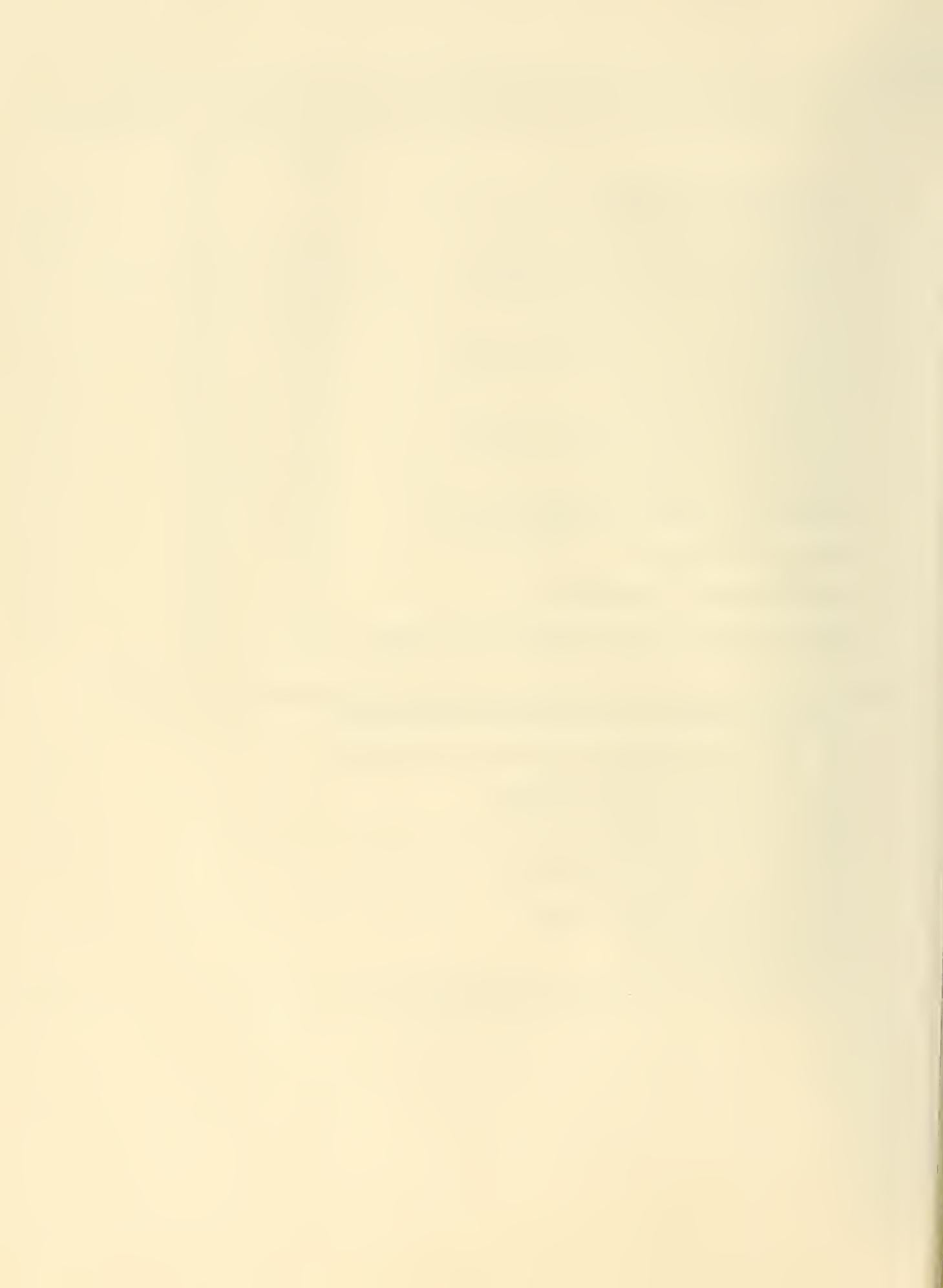
10a. Could you now please tell me whether you or any household member has every used one of the following City owned recreation facilities?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	
a. The Bunker Hill Recreation Room in the Elderly Building	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
b. The Hyde Park Municipal Building	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
c. The L-Street Recreation Center	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
d. The Mission Hill Extension	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
e. The North Bennet Recreation Center	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
f. The Paris Street Gym	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
g. The Roslindale Municipal Building	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
h. The Shelburne Center	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
i. The Tobin Building on Tremont Street	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
j. The North End Pool	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
k. The Mason Pool in Roxbury	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)
l. The Charlestown Pool on Bunker Hill Street	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	(____)

10b. Would you give me any reason why your household does not use any of the facilities just mentioned more often?

- 01. don't know about facility or its program
- 02. not open the right time
- 03. not used by people my age
- 04. no transportation available
- 05. it's too crowded
- 06. it's not attractive
- 07. cost too much to go there
- 08. too dangerous there
- 09. do not like other users
- 10. personal health
- 11. poor facilities
- 12. too busy
- 13. other \_\_\_\_\_

please specify \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_)



11a. Are there any recreation activities which members of your household enjoy doing and would like to have more opportunity to do?

- 1. yes
- 2. no - skip to Ques. #12a

(\_\_\_\_)

11b. What are they?

---

---

(\_\_\_\_)

11c. Would you pay a fee for this/these programs if that was the only way they could be made available?

- 1. yes
- 2. no
- 3. don't know

(\_\_\_\_)

11d. What is the most you would pay per session?

- 1. up to \$1.00
- 2. \$1.00 to \$1.99
- 3. \$2.00 to \$2.99
- 4. \$3.00. to \$3.99
- 5. \$4.00 to \$4.99
- 6. \$5.00 or more
- 7. don't know

(\_\_\_\_)

12a. Do you pay an annual membership fee at a community center or recreation club?

- 1. yes
- 2. no

(\_\_\_\_)

12b. Where?

---

(\_\_\_\_)



13. How much priority should be given by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in spending the limited funds it has available to the following projects? Should these projects be given high priority, some priority, or no priority.

		<u>HIGH PRIORITY</u>	<u>SOME PRIORITY</u>	<u>NO PRIORITY</u>	<u>D/K</u>
a.	more supervised programs in parks	1	2	3	4 ( )
b.	improve access to parks & buildings for handicapped	1	2	3	4 ( )
c.	clean parks more often	1	2	3	4 ( )
d.	provide restrooms in parks	1	2	3	4 ( )
e.	more summer recreation programs	1	2	3	4 ( )
f.	keep city pools open year-round	1	2	3	4 ( )
g.	more soccer fields	1	2	3	4 ( )
h.	more day care/day camp programs	1	2	3	4 ( )
i.	more exercise and health programs	1	2	3	4 ( )
j.	more arts & crafts	1	2	3	4 ( )
k.	more gym programs	1	2	3	4 ( )
l.	return water in the frog pond at Boston Common	1	2	3	4 ( )
m.	provide more drinking fountains in local parks	1	2	3	4 ( )
n.	repair the benches and play equipment in parks more often	1	2	3	4 ( )
o.	provide more decorative fountains in parks	1	2	3	4 ( )
p.	provide more parking for major parks & ball fields	1	2	3	4 ( )
q.	improve tree care	1	2	3	4 ( )
r.	improve lighting in parks	1	2	3	4 ( )
s.	improve the conditions of playing fields	1	2	3	4 ( )



14. We would like your opinion on how city recreation programs should be paid for...all out of local taxes,  
some taxes and small fee to users,  
no taxes with user paying full cost

Which of these three choices should apply to programs for:

	A CHILDREN	B TEENS	C ELDERLY over 65	D ADULTS 21-64
--	---------------	------------	-------------------------	----------------------

1. all taxes	1	1	1	1	A (_____)
2. taxes & fees	2	2	2	2	B (_____)
3. all fees	3	3	3	3	C (_____)
4. don't know	4	4	4	4	D (_____)

15. Have you or other members of your household ever refrained from using your neighborhood park because of gangs or groups of youths or young adults hanging-out?

1. yes
2. no
3. no groups hang-out there
4. don't know/no opinion

(\_\_\_\_)

Now I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

16. Does anyone with a physical handicap reside in your household?

1. yes
2. no
3. refuse

(\_\_\_\_)

17. What is the primary language spoken in your household?

1. English
2. Spanish
3. Chinese
4. Portuguese
5. other
6. refuse

(\_\_\_\_)

18. Which of the following racial categories best describe you?

1. Black
2. White
3. Hispanic
4. Oriental
5. other
6. refuse

(\_\_\_\_)



19. Do you have access to a car for your transportation needs?

- 1. yes
- 2. no
- 3. refuse

(\_\_\_\_)

20. Are you within walking distance to a neighborhood park?

- 1. yes
- 2. no

(\_\_\_\_)

21. Do you own or rent your home?

- 1. own
- 2. rent
- 3. refuse

(\_\_\_\_)

22. How many years have you lived in Boston?

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_)

23. How many years have you lived at your current address?

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_)

24. Which of the following categories best applies to your household?

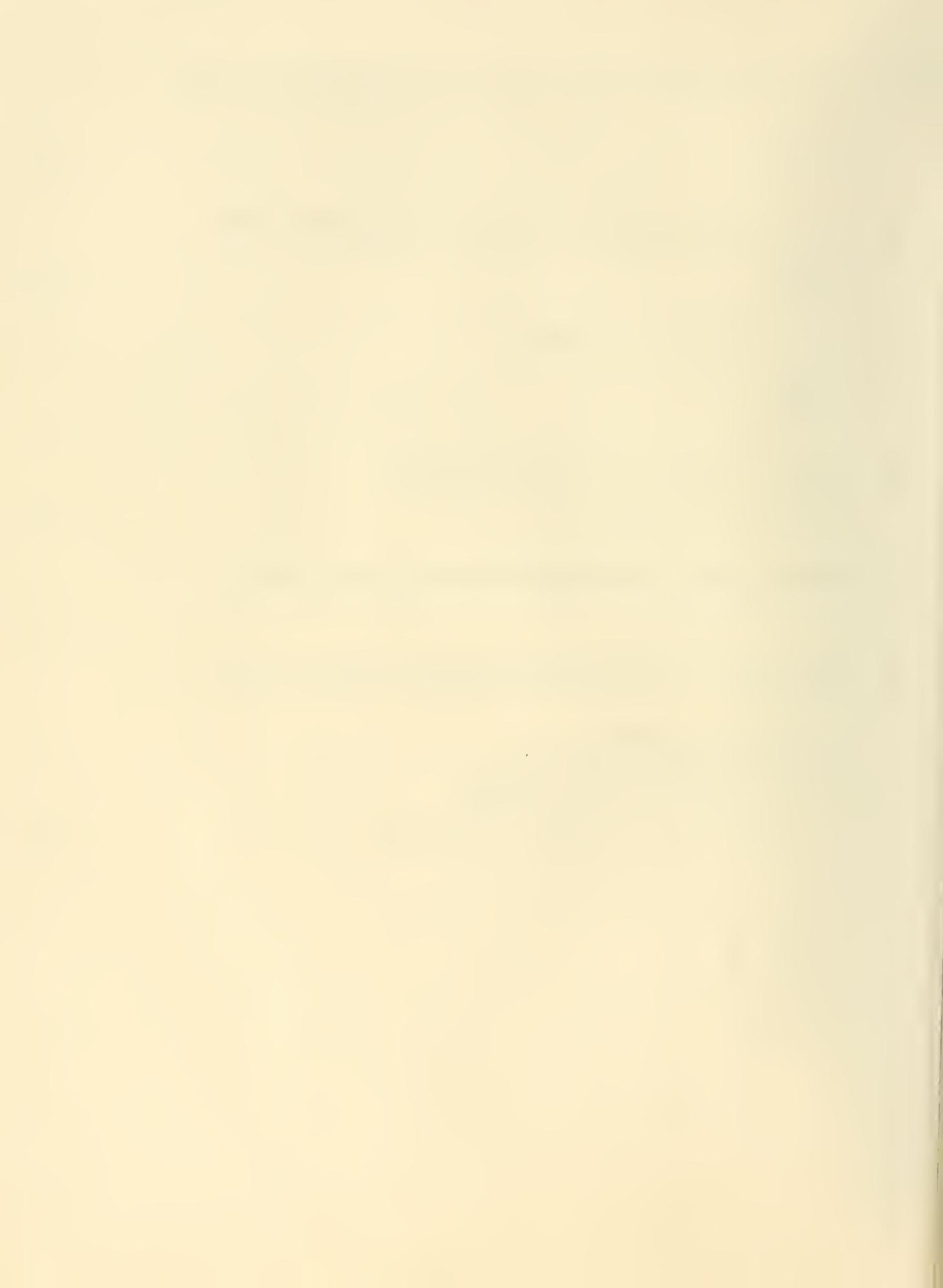
- 1. one person household
- 2. couple without children
- 3. couple with children at home
- 4. one parent with child/children
- 5. couple with no children at home
- 6. unrelated persons sharing a residence.

(\_\_\_\_)

25. Into which age category do you fall?

- 1. 18 - 24
- 2. 25 - 34
- 3. 35 - 49
- 4. 50 - 64
- 5. 65 +
- 6. refused

(\_\_\_\_)



26. Please estimate the total yearly income for your entire household. That is, the combined income of everyone living in your household who is working or receiving outside income. Into which of the broad categories would it fall?

1. under \$7,000
2. \$ 7,000 to \$10,000
3. \$11,000 to \$15,000
4. \$16,000 to \$25,000
5. \$26,000 to \$30,00
6. \$30,000 or over
7. don't know
8. refused

(\_\_\_\_)

27. Sex of respondent.

1. male
2. female

(\_\_\_\_)

Thank you very much.













